

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 244

Expressing the sense of the Senate on the ninth anniversary of the massacre of pro-democracy demonstrators on Tiananmen Square by military forces acting under orders from the Government of the People's Republic of China.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 5, 1998

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. LOTT, Mr. HUTCHINSON, and Mr. ABRAHAM)
submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate on the ninth anniversary of the massacre of pro-democracy demonstrators on Tiananmen Square by military forces acting under orders from the Government of the People's Republic of China.

Whereas in the spring of 1989, thousands of students demonstrated in Tiananmen Square in Beijing in favor of greater democracy, civil liberties, and freedom of expression in the People's Republic of China (PRC);

Whereas these students' protests against political repression in their homeland were conducted peacefully and posed no threat to their fellow Chinese citizens;

Whereas on the evening of June 4, 1989, these students were brutally attacked by infantry and armored vehicles of the

People's Liberation Army (PLA) acting under orders from the highest political and military leadership of the PRC;

Whereas hundreds of these students were killed by the PLA in Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989 for offenses no more serious than that of seeking peacefully to assert their most basic human, civil, and political rights;

Whereas many of the leaders of the student demonstrations thus attacked were subsequently imprisoned, sought out for arrest, or otherwise persecuted by the Government of the PRC;

Whereas during or shortly after the brutal assault of June 4, 1989, at least 2,500 persons were arrested for so-called "counter-revolutionary offenses" across China and dozens of persons were executed;

Whereas the Chinese government has never expressed regret for its actions on June 4, 1989, still imprisons at least 150 persons in connection with the Tiananmen Square demonstrations, and has continued to deny its citizens basic internationally-recognized human, civil, and political rights;

Whereas the Government of the PRC, as detailed in successive annual reports on human rights by the United States Department of State, still routinely and systematically violates the rights of its citizens, including their rights to freedom of speech, assembly, worship, and peaceful dissent; and

Whereas the Tiananmen Square Massacre has become indelibly etched into the political consciousness of our times as a symbol both of the impossibility of forever denying a determined people the right to control their own destiny

and of the oppressiveness and brutality of governments
that seek to do so: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That, in the interest of expressing support
2 for the observance of human, civil, and political rights in
3 China and around the world, it is the sense of the Senate
4 that—

5 (1) the United States Government should re-
6 main committed to honoring the memory and spirit
7 of the brave citizens of China who suffered and died
8 in Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989 for attempt-
9 ing to assert their internationally-recognized rights;
10 and

11 (2) supporting the peaceful transition to demo-
12 cratic governance and the observance of internation-
13 ally-recognized human, civil, and political rights and
14 the rule of law in China should be a principal goal
15 of United States foreign policy.

16 SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit
17 a copy of this resolution to the President.

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